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COMMUNIQUE ON ARGENTINA-CHILE TALKS ISSUED

PY181400Y Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 17 Sep 78 p 1 PY

[Text of communique issued by the Second Argentine-Chilean Joint Commission in Santiago and Buenos Aires simultaneously on 16 September]

[Text] The chairman of the Chilean and Argentine delegations to the Second Joint Commission met in Santiago, Chile on 16 September 1978, and reported the following:

1. The Second Argentine-Chilean Joint Commission met from 13 to 16 September.

2. During its sixth round of talks, the commission made some progress in the evaluation of criteria which could provide the basis for understandings on the subject of demarcation, and laid down the foundations for an agreement on maritime and air navigation in areas to be established.

3. The working group handling item 3.2 continued to exchange ideas on economic complementation and physical integration.

4. With regard to the Antarctic, it was agreed to promote coordination and scientific and technical cooperation both at the personnel and research program levels.

5. It was agreed to hold the next round of talks in Buenos Aires from 2 to 6 October 1978.

AZEREDO DENIES ACCORD REACHED ON DAM HEIGHTS

PY151814Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 15 Sep (TELAM)--Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira last night denied that an agreement has been achieved on the heights of the hydroelectric projects on the Parana River during the recent meeting in Rio de Janeiro attended by representatives from Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay.

The Brazilian foreign minister answered "not yet" when he was asked whether Argentina had agreed to establish the height of the Corpus Dam (hydroelectric project between Argentina and Paraguay) at 105 meters, after Argentina in previous conversations had suggested 110 meters against the 103 proposed by Brazil.

Minister da Silveira noted that he was certain that a solution would be achieved but he declined to give a proable date for the end of the negotiations since, he added, "this does not depend on me."

He noted: "All of us believe that an agreement on the heights of Itaipu and Corpus can be achieved through dialog, but to do this we need to find a common point of interest."

VIDELA CLAIMS POLITICAL PLAN IS 'ALL-INCLUSIVE'

FY181249Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 17 Sep 78 p 11 FY

[Text] President Jorge Rafael Videla said in an interview published here yesterday that "with two and a half years of our administration behind us, the conditions for the formulation of a political plan are beginning to develop." This plan, he added, will be put together with an "all-inclusive criterion" which will take in "political, business and union life."

In the course of the interview, which was published in the local newspaper TIEMPO DE CORDOBA, the president also answered questions on the national "dialogue," civilian participation in the government, negotiations with Chile and relations with the United States.

In response to one question, Videla said it is "surprising" that economic difficulties should pose an obstacle to national dialogue. "The topic of the economy has always been polemical in our country," he observed, "it has had the peculiarity of concentrating the guilt for existing problems on the government."

Answering other questions, the president said he is "optimistic" about the negotiations with Chile, and "unaware" of suggestions from [any] quarter that as a result of problems with the U.S.--the country's alliances should be reconsidered. On the contrary, he said that his talks with Mondale had served to lay the foundations for improving relations between the two countries in the future. He described Mondale as an "intelligent and experienced" man.

Videla was asked about charges that his government has unduly delayed putting up a political plan and laying down rules for union and business activities. He replied that it is circumstance and not the will of the government which imposes the rhythm of events. "To try to conduct events according to the exclusive will of the government," he declared, "can lead the best intentions to failure."

Turning to the fight against subversion, the president affirmed that "there are the victorious and the vanquished." "Victorious has been the entire Argentine people who with sacrifice and abnegation stood by the armed forces in one of the most cruel stages of our existence as a nation. Vanquished are those who, through violence and corruption, tried to take power to implant a despotic regime alien to our democratic traditions."

Unfortunately, the president concluded, many businessmen have failed to appreciate the "economic value of political stability." "The recovery of a future which was practically lost before March 24, 1976," he declared, "has passed unnoticed by many who continue betting more on the short term than on the long term."

TEXT OF ADMIRAL MASSERA'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

FY181925Y Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 17 Sep 78 p 1, 30 FY

[Farewell message released by former Argentine Navy Commander in Chief Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera in Buenos Aires on 16 September]

[Text] Argentines:

God has willed me to participate decisively in events of great significance for the lives of all of you and for the life of our nation as an organized state.

This forced me to steel my mind to fulfill, as best as I could, the responsibilities demanded by the situation. Today, at the end of my cycle, I step down from power and am ready to face the judgment of all of you.

I had not been trained for political command, thus I was forced to improvise many times. For this reason I cannot fail to express my gratitude to the men of the navy, to the comrades of other armed forces branches and to the many civilians who cooperated with me and alleviated the effects of my mistakes with true unselfishness and a spirit of sacrifice.

Power is an unforgettable experience. I had heard that power isolates, but only personal experience with power can make one realize to what extent power is a pact with loneliness, even though I constantly tried to break through this loneliness as much as I could.

Many times, on my way home late in the evening, I saw the lights in the windows of some of you and asked myself who lived behind those windows, in what way the decisions we had made that day would affect you, and how well was I fulfilling my duty to protect the future of my fellow countrymen. I would have liked to have gone into each house and to have talked to you, to listen to you, to ask you about your joys and disappointments.

I speak to you with such trust, because now, when only minutes are left until I become just another citizen, I have the irresistible desire to use simple words to do away with pomposity and to bridge distances.

You must believe that between you and the men in power, the only difference is that those in power have more information. However, the man on the street is usually more sensitive.

In addition to this, unless an egoistic fever obscures thought--and this happens to some--the men in power know what is going on, even though they may fail to act accordingly.

At the beginning I wanted to use this farewell speech to outline the attained and the unattained objectives. However, why should I do it? Don't my fellow countrymen know all about it?

You can probably imagine that I am leaving satisfied with some things and dissatisfied with others.

I am leaving satisfied because the armed, security, and police forces, with the invaluable help of the population, have practically defeated the scourge of terrorism which has brought so much useless and cruel pain to our fatherland.

I am leaving satisfied because I notice a growing atmosphere of order, discipline and respect. These factors, though they may not have affinity between themselves, are indispensible for the attainment of any significant goal.

I leave satisfied because I can feel the indisputable maturity which the Argentine people as a whole and the great majority of the society's sectors show in confronting the serious difficulties facing us.

I leave satisfied because I have proven that the defense of our national sovereignty is not the exclusive patrimony of the armed forces, but that belongs to the entire national community.

But it would not be loyal, constructive and honest to hide the fact that I leave dissatisfied with the results achieved in other important fields.

The basic documents of the armed forces government include the priority goals of improving the economy with the least possible social cost, the establishment of a vigorous economy--I repeat, the establishment of a vigorous economy--through the stimulation of productivity, the encouragement of investments, the rapid reactivation of the productive sector, the rationalization of the government and a drastic decrease in inflation.

I would be insensitive not to recognize that some progress has been achieved. However, I am aware that businessmen, those who live on salaries and daily wages, as well as sectors with fewer resources, are undergoing special difficulties, and that worries me. I am also concerned that the rate of inflation has not yet been arrested, and that the speed which the nation needs to achieve the established goals has not yet been obtained.

I also leave concerned because another of the government's important goals still remains as only a good intention. The need to establish an educational system in accordance with the needs of the country has been pointed out, but we still have much to do to reach this goal. In this way, we would be helping the development of the youth which we desire and which the nation demands: a generous, idealistic, healthy, imaginative youth; a youth which would not have to encounter useless obstacles to their legitimate desires for improvement, nor see a frustrating denial of their efforts as the inexorable end of their training; a youth which would serve as the generator for a climate of cultural creativity in all its varied manifestations, joined together only by a responsible freedom.

The process--which does not have an unlimited time span--should be nurtured by all of us together, in order to insure that it is fulfilled and that it truly modernizes and transforms the nation's structures.

We should no longer resign ourselves to a backward country, a mediocre country, unless we accept the fact that we ourselves are mediocre and unwilling to change. I don't believe that is your way of thinking, and I know that it is not mine.

Some believe that the entire secret to our future lies in administrative reform. Others believe that the key lies in the economy. This is still too narrow; these things represent only parts of the problem. Naturally, they have to be dealt with from the root, not from the partial point of view, but from the total point of view. And that total view is called: Argentina.

The time has come to reject and to stop the contradictions of the past and the miniscule and selfish sectorial interests.

We should become enthusiastic about the future, about that imperative future which we have before us. The past, no matter how recent, is already part of our history. From that coffer of memories we will retain only that which will not postpone our destiny again.

Once we have resolved what we want to do with this nation, everything will fall into place.

I don't know whether we will have other opportunities to speak about these fundamental issues, but I ask you to think about them and not to forget them. I will continue to work for this country which I love so much. I am retiring as an admiral but, as a citizen, I will continue in active service.

I thank all of you. I know that all of you--some with enthusiasm and some with reservations--have made and are making sacrifices for this Argentina, which is so orginal and so full of surprises.

And do not forget the suffering we have undergone. Do not forget the tears which have been spilled. Do not forget those who died and those who suffered mutilation of their bodies or spilled their blood. They did it for us, for us who remained on this side of life. It is for this reason that we have such a serious commitment. Behind us are the martyrs: before us is our youth. We also have a commitment to ourselves. Isn't it true that we wish to live, and to live fully? Today, in Argentina, no one has the right to feel tired or detached from what is happening.

God bless us and give strength to us all.

VIDELA MEETS WITH BOLIVIA'S EX-PRESIDENT BANZER

PY181741Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Sep 78 PY

[Excerpt] Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla today met with former Bolivian President Hugo Banzer Suarez who was accompanied by Raul Medina Munoz, director of the Latin American Department of the Argentine Foreign Ministry and Augustin Saavedra Weize, Bolivian charge d'affaires in Buenos Aires.

MARTINEZ DE HOZ FORESEES JUMP IN BUDGET DEFICIT

PY151854Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1324 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Sep (NA)--Argentine Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz has admitted that this year, "because of extraordinary reasons, the budget deficit may be 2 percent" of gross domestic product and not 1 percent as was originally estimated. He insisted, nevertheless, that there would not be any financing or monetary issuance to cover this deficit.

The economy minister stated: This objective will be fulfilled without deviation. Throughout the year there will be compensations, but the Central Bank will not finance anything." Martinez de Hoz made this statement during an interview with MERCADO magazine. The economy minister added during the interview that the present situation "has shown that this policy demands a serious effort on the part of businessmen."

He added that "foreign assets are over $6 billion, while the reserve assets are over $5 billion. The evolution of exports is quite satisfactory and within a few days the Central Bank will not have a foreign debt. But he explained the difference between this debt, which will be covered in a few days, and the country's overall foreign debt, both in the public and private sector, which is $10 billion.

BRIEFS

REPORT ON DETAINEES--Buenos Aires, 15 Sep (NA)--The Interior Ministry reported this afternoon that 47 detainees were set free between 31 August and today. It also reported that nine were arrested and placed at the disposal of the Executive Branch, one was authorized to leave the country and another was expelled from the country [Text] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2015 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY]

FOUR UNIONS INTERVENED--Buenos Aires, 18 Sep (NA)--Due to serious irregularities, the Labor Ministry has appointed interventors to four union organizations: Lt Col Arnaldo Carlos Landredi, to the Argentine Federation of Rural Workers and Stevedores [FATRE]; Chief Commander Pedro Julio Zarate (ret), to the Shop Workers Union; Sergeant Major Hector Argentino Maurino (ret) to the Union of Helpers in Private Homes [UPACP] and Chief Commander Jorge Alberto Jofre (ret), to the Union of Lanus and Avellaneda Employees. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2038 GMT 18 Sep 78 PY]

ARMY COMMANDER VERIFIES PROTEST SENT TO CHILE

PY161317Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Sep 78 PY

[Text] The army commander, Gen David Padilla Arancibia, has confirmed that the government has made a strong protest through the Foreign Ministry against the violation of Bolivian territory by Chilean citizens.

He has stated that it was agreed, after talks among the Foreign Ministry, the Defense Ministry and the High Military Command, to protest the act which violates the sovereignty of the nation. He said:

[Begin recording] There has been coordination with the foreign minister and the defense minister, and the document itself [words indistinct] was written by the Foreign Ministry. Naturally, the document was drawn up on the basis of the coordination I have just mentioned. [end recording]

He also said that in his opinion the case can be reported, if circumstances permit it, to international organizations, such as the OAS or the United Nations.

[Begin recording] Of course I think that the document should be published in due time. In any case, this should be decided by the Foreign Ministry. [end recording]

He further explained that a thorough investigation has been ordered to find out if the report is true that part of the Bolivian territory at the border has been mined by the Chilean Army.

[Begin recording] It is obvious that some places at the border are, let us not say abandoned, but outside our control, since they are very close to the border. In any case, as you have just said, an appraisal and investigation (?has been ordered). [end recording]

He concluded by saying that there has been no special mobilization of Bolivian troops toward the Chilean border; but some patrols have been sent to check the reports of the violation of nation's territory.

[Begin recording] We should not forget that neighboring countries have every right, within their own territories, to make the decisions they believe to be appropropriate. Our regiments are based in certain towns where the infrastructure and conditions exist so that the conscripts can live there, and from there military posts are detailed to particular points which require guarding and control. Naturally, those military posts which are a little more forward send patrols to watch the border on a permanent basis. This is done on all borders by all countries which have a right to safeguard their sovereignty. [end recording]

FUDP WALKS OUT OF OPPOSITION CONFERENCE

PY151528Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY

[Text] Disagreements within the opposition have almost broken the unity which was (?agreed upon) on 23 August to demand that the government call general elections immediately. The Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP] yesterday walked out of a meeting held by the four main opposition fronts.

The meeting was held at the headquarters of the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] led by former President Victor Paz Estenssoro. It was attended by the National Revolutionary Movement-Authentic Revolutionary Party Alliance [MNR-PRA], the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], the Revolutionary Front of the Left [FRI] and the FUDP. It was reported that the meeting had been called to hear an FUDP explanation regarding its behavior in the last few days. Former President Hernan Siles Zuazo, leader of the FUDP, had a meeting last Sunday with President Pereda. Yesterday's meeting was held in a somewhat (?uneasy) atmosphere, according to some of the participants. FRI leader Armando Morales Gomez said that the FUDP left the meeting because it found itself in an embarrassing situation when it could not explain its behavior. He said that it was the FUDP itself which had opposed a dialog with the government and had insisted on giving a 2-week deadline to call new general elections. Morales Gomez said that the FUDP had not respected the agreement signed on 23 August.

But FUDP leader Jaime Paz Zamora said that (?unkind) criticism was advanced by PRA delegates at yesterday's meeting. In view of this intolerable attitude, he said, the FUDP found itself compelled to leave the meeting. He said that (?no) front should be compelled to explain its conduct to other organizations. He asserted, however, that the FUDP is willing to accept a dialog and that it will attend the next meeting to be called by the political opposition fronts. He (?agreed) with the FRI members, saying that the FUDP is also ready to accept a public debate on any subject.

BANZER QUESTIONED ABOUT PLANS FOR FUTURE

PY151845Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1447 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Sep (TELAM)--General Hugo Banzer Suarez, former Bolivian president, arrived here today for a private visit, as he termed it. He was met at Ezeiza airport by Raul Medina Munoz, director of the Latin American Department of the Foreign Ministry, and by A. Saavedra Weiss, the Bolivian charge d'affaires.

General Banzer expressed his desire to see Gen Jorge Rafael Videla because the Argentine president is a good friend of all Bolivians. As for the possibility of being appointed Bolivia's ambassador to our country, General Banzer said that he had read about that possibility while in the United States, although he had not received any official information, and added that it would be an honor for him to represent his country in Argentina. Asked about the possibility of being a candidate in the next presidential election in Bolivia, Banzer replied that he did not want to talk about politics at this time.

BRIEFS

DEATH OF SOCIALIST--Cochabamba, 11 Sep--Local police reported finding the body of one Fernando Fernandez tied up, gagged and shot seven times. Fernando Fernandez was a member of the Bolivian National Socialist Legion, which reported that Fernandez had been attacked before and that other members of this organization had been harassed by members of the Revolutionary Front of the Left [FRI]. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 12 Sep 78 PY]

PEREDA HOLDS OIL TALKS--President Juan Pereda Asbun today held a 4-hour meeting with the president of the U.S. Occidental Petroleum Corporation. This company has been granted important concession in the departments of Titicaca, Tarija and Santa Cruz. They discussed possibilities for Occidental Petroleum Corporation to increase investments in the country, especially in petroleum exploration fields. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 18 Sep 78 PY]

DER SPIEGEL Reports FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR DEAL IN TROUBLE

FT192045Z Paris AFP in English 1935 GMT 19 Sep 78 FY

[Text] Bonn, 19 Sep (AFP)--The German weekly DER SPIEGEL has stated that the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement is running a serious risk of becoming stalled, citing technical problems which are hampering the construction of the nuclear plants and are considerably increasing the overall cost of the projects.

The FRG-Brazilian contract, for DM 10 billion signed in 1975 provides for the supply of eight nuclear plants, a fuel reprocessing plant and the installation of a uranium enriching plant.

According to DER SPIEGEL the foundations of the first nuclear plant must be made up of 1,000 cement pillars because of the particular nature of the ground selected for the installation of the plant. The Brazilians have therefore temporarily suspended the construction of the nuclear plant there.

However, Hans Hartwich, president of the FRG consortium Kraftwerkunion [KWU], stated in an interview with the weekly that the technical difficulties are not insurmountable and the first of the nuclear plants should be ready by 1983. The second, by 1985 at the latest, he said.

The original Brazil-FRG agreement provides for the completion of the eight nuclear plants in 10 or 12 years at the most.

Itamaraty Denies Charges

FT192338Z Paris AFP in Spanish 1940 GMT 28 Sep 78 FY

[Text] Brasilia, 19 Sep (AFP)--A spokesman of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry indicated here today that nothing will endanger the implementation of the nuclear agreement signed in 1975 by Brazil and the FRG.

This is the first reaction of the Brazilian Government to a long article published by the FRG weekly DER SPIEGEL in its latest issue, indicating that the implementation of the agreement is going several difficulties).

The German weekly stated that $296 million have disappeared during the negotiations, and charged Brazilian Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen and Industry Minister Angelo Calmon de Sa with being or having been linked with companies interested in the agreement.

Reis Velloso Rejects Allegations

FT190354Z Paris Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0200 GMT 19 Sep 78 FY

[Excerpt] There is nothing new on the nuclear agreement, which has been implemented normally since the stage of pressure by [words indistinct] was overcome. This statement is the final comment of Planning Minister Reis Velloso to charges by the West German magazine DER SPIEGEL of several irregularities which might jeopardize the Brazilian-FRG agreement.

Reaction in Chamber

PT1905Z0Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Sep 78 PY

[From the congressional report]

[Text] Deputy Airton Soares [Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] Sao Paulo] again referred to the subject of corruption among government officials, based on the report published by the FRG magazine DER SPIEGEL which charges ministers Mario Henrique Simonsen and Angelo Calmon de Sa with being involved in irregularities resulting from the nuclear agreement.

He said that these facts transcend beyond our national borders and tarnish the image, not of the government, but of the Brazilian people abroad. Soares regretted the absence of ARENA leaders to explain these facts involving ministers, especially their corrupt behavior in handling public money.

Regarding charges made by Soares about the involvement of ministers Calmon de Sa and Simonsen, and irregularities in the nuclear agreement with the FRG, Jorge Arbage expressed regret that the opposition deputy discussed the subject based only on the report published by DER SPIEGEL.

He said that the same issue of the magazine, quoted by JORNAL DO BRASIL, reports that two directors of the Kraftwerkunion have denied the magazine's report that the nuclear agreement would be in danger.

Among other things, the two directors of that German enterprise indicated that with the exception of those in France and the Soviet Union, no other nuclear project is is proceeding on schedule.

MDB Deputy Mario Guimaraes expressed agreement with Airton Soares on this subject, indicating that ARENA must give explanations to the nation and not to the opposition party. He added that congress has received repeated charges of this kind, but that the government had never given any explanation. He also said that the MDB must oversee actions of the executive branch so that the ministers may answer requests made by the technical committees in the Chamber of Deputies aimed at clarifying these irregularities.

'DER SPIEGEL' Articles

For the 18 September Hamburg DER SPIEGEL interview with two Kraftwerkunion A.G. directors concerning details and developments of the nuclear agreement with Brazil, see the Federal Republic of Germany section of the 19 September Western Europe DAILY REPORT. The companion DER SPIEGEL report on the difficulties being encountered with the nuclear agreement will be published in the 20 September Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

BRIEFS

IRANIAN ENVOY ON TRADE--On being received by ARENA President Petronio Portella, the Iranian ambassador to Brazil said that his country is interested in expanding trade relations with Brazil, and that Brazil can profit from these direct trade relations. The ambassador also said that this interest is based not only on economic, but also on political reasons, citing the current instability in the Middle East, which could lead to a new closing of the Suez Canal. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Sep 78 PY]

HEALTH MINISTRY WORKERS SET STRIKE FOR 19 SEPTEMBER

PA181734Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 18 Sep (AFP)--The Peruvian Health Ministry's 35,000 workers will go on a 48-hour nationwide strike beginning tomorrow, Tuesday, to protest the dismissal of public employees, it was announced here today.

The "preventive" 48-hour strike may last 72 hours because, although the government announced a few days ago that the dismissal of public employees had stopped, the legal provisions regarding "rationalization" are still being enforced, according to Benjamin Leon, secretary general of the union.

PERUVIAN-VENEZUELAN COOPERATION GROUP TO BE ESTABLISHED

PY111338Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Sep 78 PY

[Text] The Mixed Peruvian-Venezuelan Cooperation Commission will be installed in the very near future. Economic, financial, trade, cultural, technical and other matters of interest to the two countries are among the subjects it will discuss.

In October 1978, Peru will send a trade mission, with representatives from public and private sectors, to Venezuela in order to increase bilateral trade.

BRIEFS

AIR ROUTE AUTHORIZED--The government has authorized the Peruvian state airlines and (FOTEP) to exploit jointly the regular passenger route between Lima, Quito, Panama and Miami. [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Sep 78 PY]

CHILEAN FISHING BOAT CAPTURED--Lima, 13 Sep (AFP)--Authorized maritime sources this morning disclosed that a Chilean fishing schooner was captured early this morning in southern Peruvian waters and led to the port of Ilo. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1555 GMT 13 Sep 78 PY]

FOREIGN CAPITAL IN BANKING--Lima, 13 Sep (AFP)--The Peruvian Government last night authorized foreign participation in banks totaling up to 20 percent of overall shares. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2013 GMT 13 Sep 78 PY]

AIR COMMANDER TO BOLIVIA--Bolivian Ambassador Walter Montenegro reported today that Peruvian Air Force Commander Gen Jorge Tamayo de la Flor will visit Bolivia at the end of this month at the invitation of the Bolivian Air Force. This report has been confirmed at the Peruvian Aeronautics ministry. General Tamayo will arrive in Bolivia on 26 or 27 September. [Lima Radio Union in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Sep 78 PY]

PEREZ, TORRIJOS IN 'SURPRISE' MEETING; NO DETAILS

PA1902253Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0239 GMT 19 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 18 Sep (AFP)--Caracas television reported tonight that President Carlos Andres Perez held a surprise meeting with Panamanian chief of government Gen Omar Torrijos.

The report was not confirmed at the Presidential Palace. However, it was learned that Perez left his office at noon on Monday accompanied by Foreign Minister Alberto Consalvi. They left for an unknown destination.

Venezuelan Ambassador to the United States Ruben Carpio Castillo apparently attended the meeting, which possibly took place on Orchila Island, 120 km from Caracas.

GOVERNMENT DENIES ACTION BY ITS PLANES IN NICARAGUA

PA1822202Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2055 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Caracas, 18 Sep (LATIN)--The Venezuelan Government denied today that several of its planes stationed in Costa Rica had participated in warlike actions in the Nicaraguan civil war. "Our planes have not participated in any kind of action," said President Carlos Andres Perez when he was questioned by newsmen on reports received from Miami that one of the planes had been shot down.

Venezuela sent several bombers to Costa Rica and signed a joint mutual defense declaration with that country after the Costa Rican Government denounced Nicaraguan attacks against its territory. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi also denied charges from Nicaragua according to which a Venezuelan plane had participated in support of a rebel column opposed to President Anastasio Somoza.

Speaking to journalists at Miraflores Palace, Perez said he had no knowledge of a presumed trip by Panamanian chief of government Gen Omar Torrijos to Venezuela. "There is always a possibility, but so far I know nothing," said Perez.

PRESIDENT CONFIRMS UN DECISION ON NICARAGUA

PA1822007Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez has confirmed his decision to go to the United Nations, although his trip depends on developments in Nicaragua. He said he is in constant communication with the chiefs of state of Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico, Panama and the prime minister of Jamaica in order to discuss the Nicaraguan problem. Finally President Perez announced that the Venezuelan ambassador to the United Nations, Ruben Carpio Castillo, will return tonight to discuss the Nicaraguan situation.

President Perez said all Latin American nations are shaken by the events in Nicaragua. He made this statement on confirming his trip to the United Nations to present the problem there.

Meanwhile, it was reported from the Information and Tourism Ministry that the Venezuelan Government has no knowledge of the participation of some Venezuelan Air Force Planes, currently stationed in Costa Rica, in actions which occurred on the border with Nicaragua. An Information Ministry spokesman added: We know the rumor exists, but we also know that Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio has denied it.

INTERVIEW WITH EDITOR OF NICARAGUAN 'LA PRENSA'

PA170403Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Interview with Dr Danilo Aguirre Solis, editor of LA PRENSA, via telephone]

[Excerpts] [Question] Dr Aguirre Solis, here is a third question for you: Some days ago, General Somoza announced that there might possibly be a dialog with the Broad Opposition Front [FAO] in order to undermine the activity against the government. Do you believe that under the present circumstances this kind of dialog could take place or that there could be some kind of mediation by other countries in the Nicaragua problem?

[Answer] Of course yesterday the FAO, in view of the report that most of the governments of the hemisphere, of the continent, had urged the government to accept international mediation, accepted such mediation based on the premise of a permanent solution that guarantees the democratization of Nicaragua rather than any temporary solution.

Dialog is a word that has been in use for about 1 year. Actually there have been many ups and downs, and ever since the death of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, the united opposition, which has been joined by the businessmen and the church, has maintained that there can be no dialog with the president and that it wants only the immediate and effective democratization of the country. Recently feelers have been unofficially put out between three delegates named by the FAO and the possible members of international mediation groups. We do not know the details but we do know that these efforts have been underway since yesterday and that the church is also involved, since the archbishop is returning today from more or less the same mission.

[Question] Dr Aguirre Solis, a certain situation has been created in this regard: The newspaper LA PRENSA is a member of the Inter-American Press association [IAPA]. Would the newspaper you head utilize this in order to get the IAPA to present an accusation of violation of human rights by the Nicaraguan Government?

[Answer] Of course we are very interested in having the IAPA and all newsmen throughout the world learn through this station what is happening to LA PRENSA. The government has declared a state of siege and imposed martial law, which of course implies censorship of the information media. Radio and electronic media were in effect suppressed. Only LA PRENSA was giving information. However, censorship, even within the limits of martial law, provides for the possibility of providing objective and professional information about what is happening in the country.

Yesterday, or rather Thursday, which was the first day of the censorship, the main report the paper carried concerned the expropriation of General Somoza's Murcielago estate by the Costa Rican Government. This information was suppressed. You can imagine the situation when a report of this type, which is not concerned with any war operations, which is not related to any state property and which simply concerned the action of a neighboring government with regard to the property of a foreigner--in this case the president of Nicaragua--and a report which strictly repeated information from news dispatches, could not be reported. Therefore LA PRENSA is in a state of absolute closure, which will last as long as these conditions exist, because there is nothing to report. The country is not producing a single report that is unrelated to the events occurring in the country, and in the remote event that we wished to fill the paper with international news, we would also be unable to because our teletypes have been cut since Thursday. Therefore the IAPA and all news organizations at the continental and world level should in some way vigorously protest what is happening to the press in general in Nicaragua.

EL SALVADOR

FOREIGN MINISTER: CONDECA CANNOT INTERVENE IN NICARAGUA

PA152123Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2336 GMT 14 Sep 78 PA

[By Alvaro Fernandez]

[Excerpts] Madrid, 14 Sep (EFE)--The Central American Defense Council [CONDECA] cannot intervene in the Nicaraguan conflict, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth told EFE today. He noted: "CONDECA is an organization which pursues the unity of Central American armed forces but in the event of foreign aggression and not in regard to domestic problems." The foreign minister also said: "We have not considered the possibility of recognizing a government formed by "the 12' of Nicaragua." If a change of government occurs in Nicaragua, it would be a matter of studying what it is and how it was implemented in order to continue diplomatic relations," the Salvadoran foreign minister stated in Madrid while on a visit as part of a Salvadoran trade delegation.

The foreign minister also referred to the negotiations between his country and Honduras, aimed at solving the territorial conflict which led them to the 1973 war, after which Honduras unilaterally, according to him, suspended its relations with El Salvador. "The written phase of the negotiations must end before mid-January. It is a phase in which the two parties determine points of agreement and propose and counterpropose the points at issue," Rodriguez Porth explained. The positive results will come with the oral portion, in which the parties will meet with the mediator in order to iron out differences," the foreign minister continued, "and to see if we can reach a complete agreement. The two parties are quite optimistic and have shown political good will." However, Rodriguez Porth noted that the crux of the problem is Honduras' "inflexible, unfounded and unfair" position regarding 5 tracts in dispute out of a total of 440 sq km. Apart from ownership of the territory, which the foreign minister claimed for El Salvador, stating that "everything--the courts, the schools--have always been under Salvadoran control," he said that the Honduran claim is an "injustice."

He said: "El Salvador has a population of 5 million who occupy 21,000 sq km. Honduras has 3.5 million inhabitants in a territory of 120,000 sq km. Honduras has large areas of uncultivated land, while we do not have an inch which is not cultivated. And they are still trying to take those 440 sq km away from us. That hurts the Salvadoran people."

Finally, the foreign minister referred to the terrorism of the extreme left in his country. He said: "The guerrillas are certainly a threat to El Salvador. They have caused many deaths, carried out many kidnapings and collected many millions of dollars. I do not think they have the support of the people to protect and help them, which is an important factor for a guerrilla movement in order to prevail. Although the guerrilla movement is more or less under control, it exists and is hard to defeat even in countries better organized than ours." He concluded: "The guerrillas are very young people. They come from the middle and upper classes. Their ideas are new within Marxism-Leninism but confused, lacking ideological guidelines. They respond to a conceptual deviation within Marxism.

FPL KILLS FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT

PA162331Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2036 GMT 16 Sep 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--The clandestine Popular Liberation Forces [FPL] this afternoon took credit for killing Ruben Alfonso Rodriguez, former Salvadoran congress president, at noon today. Rodriguez was killed by two shots while on his way to Sonsonate, 65 km southwest of San Salvador.

This is the second terrorist act of the extreme leftist FPL today. Early this morning a FPL group machinegunned the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, causing some damage but no victims.

FPL RESPONSIBLE FOR UNIVERSITY GUARDS' DEATHS

PA1822527 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--An intense gun battle took place today, Monday, at 1030 (1630 GMT) in the vicinity of the University of El Salvador, in San Salvador's northern district, leaving several wounded. Eyewitnesses told ACAN-EFE that several university guards--who had just sustained two fatalities at the hands of the clandestine "Popular Liberation Forces" [FPL]--violently expelled several students from the university campus. Shots were fired at the university guards from the streets. The guards replied with the indiscriminate use of guns and knives. The passengers of buses in transit through the area were beaten and traffic was paralyzed in the university area.

Shortly after 0600 (1200 GMT), FPL commandos killed university guards Jose Encarnacion Ventura, who died instantly, and Jose Eduardo Chavez Carrillo, who died a few hours later at the "Rosales" Hospital in San Salvador. In a communique, the FPL explained that this action was carried out in reprisal for the violence university guards unleashed last week against the students.

GUATEMALA

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR REMAINS IN CRITICAL CONDITION

PA1817367 San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1341 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] According to a report by Radio Fabulosa newsman Jorge Soria, Nicaraguan Ambassador to Guatemala Gen Edmundo Meneses Cantanero is struggling between life and death after being hit by machinegun fire on Saturday. After several operations the Guatemalan doctors treating Meneses have reported that he is in very serious condition.

EGP Claims Responsibility

PA1822457 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City--The clandestine People's Guerrilla Army [EGP], Marxist, claimed credit today, Monday, for Saturday's machinegune attack against Edmundo Meneses Cantanero, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Guatemala. In a bulletin released to the press, the EGP noted that it tried to execute Meneses, a Nicaraguan National Guard brigadier general. The EGP affirmed that behind his cover as Nicaraguan ambassador to Guatemala, Meneses has coordinated police repression plans and maneuvers against guerrillas on the Central American level. The guerrilla bulletin adds that this action was a show of the EGP's solidarity with the struggle of the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA GRANTS INTERVIEW TO COLOMBIAN RADIO

PA1817227 San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1231 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Interview granted by President Gen Anastasio Somoza to unidentified Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional reporter on 17 Sep--recorded]

[Text] [Indistinct question]

[Answer] I do not think he would contemplate that. Therefore, I cannot answer your question yet.

[Question] Mr President, it has been reported that the Sandinist National Liberation Front leader was killed. Is that true?

[Answer] That is not true.

[Question] Mr President, what is your country's economic situation?

[Answer] The country's economic situation as far as the agricultural sector is concerned is very good. The business sector has been depressed due to the actions of the businessmen themselves who have been on strike. But the country's economy, in general, is as good as at any other time.

[Question] General, what could you tell Colombians about the accusations filed at the United Nations?

[Answer] As far as I know, no accusations have been lodged agairst Nicaragua at the United Nations. What we have noticed is that Venezuela has been interested in getting an international organization to intervene in Nicaragua, which is unprecedented in American history.

[Question] Mr President, [words indistinct] blame Costa Rica for this week's border incidents?

[Answer] We have always gotten along very well with the Costa Rican Government and, if that were the case, we would work toward improving relations.

[Question] Mr President, it has been said that the National Guard and your country's army are made up of rich people. Is there any truth to that?

[Answer] It is not true. The National Guardsmen are common people. They do not represent the oligarchy as previous American armies once did.

[Question] Mr General, Colombian trade unions asked President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala to break relations with your country. What do you think of this position?

[Answer] Well, those trade unionists are misinformed regarding the situation in Nicaragua and I think they are requesting something which would not be good for Colombia.

[Question] Mr President Somoza, would you be willing to break diplomatic and commercial relations with Venezuela?

[Answer] Well, that may be considered in the future. I still do not have sufficient cause to say yes or no.

[Question] What is the situation in the city of Leon?

[Answer] I have just talked to Leon Garrison Commander Colonel Zelaya, who told me that the city of Leon is calm and that there has been no further sniping. Therefore, the city is again living a normal life after the National Guard units evicted the snipers and subversives.

[Question] Mr President, what message did the diplomatic corps deliver to you during their visit on Saturday?

[Answer] It was a message which nations having good relations with Nicaragua traditionally deliver on the (?festive) day of your country's independence. I am very pleased with that visit.

[Question] What do you think about the fact that Panama and Venezuela increased the (?number of) forces on the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica?

[Answer] Well, that is a commitment which Panama and Venezuela may have with Costa Rica. This is no news to me because Costa Rica has always portrayed itself as a country without an army and, of course, that is their business. To us, it is disturbing that based on an incident which was involuntary on our part, the Costa Ricans, requested that forces [words indistinct] to visit their country. This puts us in a precarious situation.

[Question] Will the fact that Panama offered to send soldiers to the Nicaragua-Costa Rica border lead to a break in relations with Omar Torrijos' government?

[Answer] Absolutely not.

[Question] When is the OAS Human Rights Commission expected to arrive in Nicaragua?

[Answer] During the first week in October.

[Question] Mr President, the civilian population has complained of indiscriminate shooting. What will become of the noncombatants?

[Answer] Well, the situation is truly regrettable because I gave [orders] several days ago to the National Guard forces not to attack in order to let civilians leave but it seems the guerrillas have forced them to stay in Masaya and, of course, we have unfortunately had to fight in the midst of innocent people.

[Question] Mr President, have any epidemics broken out in Masaya or Leon as a result of the bombing and clashes?

[Answer] Not so far.

[Question] General, some countries such as Venezuela have suggested that the only way to bring about a return to normalcy in your country is for you to resign. What do you think of that?

[Answer] Well, I think that is a capricious idea based on mistaken reports received by Venezuelan Government officials and I also think that it is blatant interference in the affairs of a free and sovereign country such as Nicaragua.

[Question] General Somoza, what do you think of repeated world press comments that are opposed to your staying in power?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] I am a politician who has to tolerate attacks from opposing ideologies. Therefore, if any ideology opposes me through the press, I have to remain at the helm and defend myself with what I believe is right and true for us.

[Question] General, if you left the government would you be willing to turn your property over to the survivors of the civil war in Nicaragua?

[Answer] I think this question is uncalled for.

[Question] Mr President, what do you think would be the most rapid solution to your country's situation?

[Answer] Well, the quickest solution is that we continue in office and bring the country to an orderly election so that I may relinquish power to whoever is elected.

[Question] Mr President, what estimate of the situation could you give international opinion concerning public order in your country?

[Answer] The estimate of the situation which I can provide is that the entire country, except for two cities, is completely peaceful. In those two cities, half of the area is under government control and the other half remains to be secured. That is all.

[Question] General Somoza, has a political solution to Nicaragua's conflict been suggested?

[Answer] I have always suggested solving it through dialog or talks with the opposition so that a country such as our own, which is a developing country both economically and politically, will initiate the necessary legal reforms so that Nicaraguans can work with satisfaction within the democratic institutions we have.

[Question] Mr President, what is the position of the Nicaraguan church regarding your country's social and political situation?

[Answer] The church is an association which concerns itself with the welfare of Liberals, Conservatives and communists. Its interest is to see that Nicaraguans do not harm themselves. In addition to that, some church members have come out against the Liberal Government over which I preside.

[Question] Mr President, the United States has asked for a cease-fire. What do you think of this?

[Answer] I feel that it is a good idea for the United States to ask for a cease-fire and we are [word indistinct] what might happen. However, we are studying the request on the basis of the consequences that may result from it.

[Question] Mr President, do you feel that Marxist-Leninist infiltration has increased recently?

[Answer] Yes, absolutely.

[Question] How do you view yourself in this situation, general?

[Answer] Well, we really have to admit that this ideology is promoted by a power which spends money to win supporters. We also have to admit that some democratic individuals have not [word indistinct] enough to face Marxism-Leninism with an (?ideological) attitude which makes life attractive to the masses.

[Question] Mr President, Catholic priest Ernesto Cardenal has asked Pope John Paul I to state his position on what he called genocide in Nicaragua. Do you think the church should become involved in this situation?

[Answer] In the first place, I want to say that Mr Cardenal is not qualified to ask the pope anything because he should not even be a priest anymore.

[Question] General Somoza, some reports say you are ill [words indistinct]. How is your health?

[Answer] My health today is very good and I will take this opportunity to tell this to those who at dawn said that I was ill so they can hear over their radios that I am speaking and conversing with Colombian friends.

[Question] Mr President, what reasons led you to impose press and radio censorship in your country?

[Answer] The overall state of agitation in the country and the violence and subversive attacks on the established authority.

[Question] Is it true that newsman Eduardo Hallman Chamorro, production manager of the Nicaraguan opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, has been arrested?

[Answer] I cannot answer that. I do not know if Eduardo Hallman Chamorro works for that newspaper.

[Question] Mr President, what will be the outcome of your country's situation? What results do you expect?

[Answer] Well, first of all, after we finish the national cleanup campaign, we will have uncovered one of the biggest offensives in Nicaragua's history to topple the established regime by forces adhering to Marxism-Leninism.

[Question] Mr President, do you think Cuban guerrillas are supporting the military decisions of the Sandinist groups?

[Answer] I think so. Fidel Castro himself confirmed this in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, when he said that he and his government support the Sandinist movement against the Nicaraguan Government.

[Question] Mr President, do you have figures for the number of dead both among the civil guard and the civilian population?

[Answer] I do not have any total figures. We have only the number of dead in the armed forces, which total about 38.

[Question] Mr President, the Spanish newspaper [CAMBIO] 16 reported in Madrid today that the Nicaraguan National Guard used six Spanish priests as human shields during guerrilla attacks for 8 hours in the cities of Esteli and [word indistinct]. Is that true?

[Answer] That is not true.

[Question] Mr President, could you tell Colombians about your upcoming trip abroad?

[Answer] There has been much speculation regarding my travels outside Nicaragua. The truth is that I am a government leader who often travels abroad, contrary to what Latin American government leaders have traditionally done. In the past few months I traveled [words indistinct] and I am planning a private trip to a neighboring country soon after October.

[Question] Mr President: The international news agencies report that there was an attempt on the life of Nicaraguan Ambassador Edmundo Meneses, and that he is in critical condition. What can you tell us about that?

[Answer] I condemn an action such as this in which a defenseless man is the target of machinegun fire. I deeply regret this. He is in critical condition.

[Question] Mr President: Is it true that you have recalled your ambassador to Venezuela?

[Answer] No sir, that is not true. I think that was merely speculation by the press.

[Question] Mr President: Do you think the U.S. president has tried to intervene in your country's conflict?

[Answer] I do not think the United States has tried to intervene.

[Question] Has the National Guard been able to estimate how many men there are in the Sandinist front?

[Answer] I would say they have about 200 men capable of fighting.

[Question] Mr President: Is the National Guard capable of putting an end to the Sandinist groups?

[Answer] The National Guard is in a position to bring the full weight of the law to bear on these gentlemen.

[Question] Mr President: Have investigations carried out by the [word indistinct] forces of your country determined the origin of the weapons used by the Sandinists?

[Answer] These weapons came from abroad.

[Question] Any specific country, from Latin America or Europe?

[Answer] Some came from Costa Rica.

[Question] Mr President: How long will it take the government to completely normalize the situation in Nicaragua?

[Answer] About 2 more days are needed to achieve full military control of the cities.

[Question] And how about the economic situation? How long will it take to repair the damage done by this civil war? How much money will have to be invested?

[Answer] In the first place, this is not a civil war. This is a desperate action by a group of persons who have tried to provoke a massacre in Nicaragua, but who have not been successful. (?I do not think) they have enough strength to last 2 or 3 weeks. I think we will have to invest several million cordobas in the three cities that have been affected. We will have to replace what these individuals have burned and looted.

[Question] Mr President: Does international communism want to set up another communist country in either Central or South America? Do you think that Russia has had anything to do with this situation?

[Answer] Well, I think it has participated through its puppet, Cuba.

[Question] Mr President: Commander Cero, Eden Pastora, told a newsman in an interview which he allegedly granted in Nicaragua that the second action to oust you had started. Do you think they will be able to do this?

[Answer] I do not think so.

[Question] Mr President: Do you think that one can compare what is happening now to the days of the 1971 earthquake?

[Answer] No, because these are two very different things. One was an act of nature, and this one is man made.

[Question] Mr President: What has the International Red Cross done in this situation?

[Answer] The International Red Cross has carried out a very commendable action. It has helped alleviate the sorrow and the anguish of a number of civilians who have suffered under the action of these subversive elements.

[Question] Mr President: Colombians are very concerned about this situation and would like for you to explain what the "Group of 12" is and what they do in your country.

[Answer] The "Group of 12" is organized by the opposition in Nicaragua allegedly for the purpose of representing all ideologies and levels, and all intellectual, political, and business sectors. Thus, these gentlemen are supposed to represent the capitalists, the professionals, the workers, the intellectuals and some politicians. That is their idea. However, the truth of the matter is that this "Group of 12" is composed mostly of unknown politicians and businessmen who, while living abroad, have sought to profit from the efforts of the opposition. The group has just recently fallen apart. Now, the "Group of 12" has only five members. That is what they represent.

[Question] President Somoza: Do you think you would be reelected if there were to be elections in Nicaragua?

[Answer] No. I cannot run for president in the next elections because our democratic constitution forbids it.

[Question] Under those circumstances, what are your future plans once you have stepped down from the presidency of your country?

[Answer] The Nationalist Liberal Party [word indistinct] through its convention, a man who will lead the party to victory in the next elections. [sentence as heard]

[Question] Mr President: Julio Rodriguez, political adviser to the Costa Rican president, has charged through a fellow radio station network that the planes which entered Costa Rican territory were under your direct personal command. Is this true?

[Answer] Indirectly yes, because I am the president of the republic.

[Question] Then, you do not believe that this situation is very [words indistinct] Costa Rica?

[Answer] At the beginning of the interview I told you that the planes were pursuing individuals who came from Costa Rica and then returned to Costa Rica. If there were any violations of Costa Rican airspace, it was involuntary.

[Question] Mr President, what do you think of Dr Carlos Andres Perez as a politician and a statesman?

[Answer] In the first place, Carlos Andres Perez is not a doctor. In the second place, I have a very high personal opinion of him, as I know him personally. I disagree with his foreign policy because he wants to intervene in the domestic affairs of Nicaragua.

[Question] President Somoza, are you expecting a new attack by Sandinists from abroad?

[Answer] Not for the time being, because I think we already did enough harm to those who were in Costa Rica and they will not dare stick out their noses so soon.

[Question] And, Mr President, how about those who flew to Panama?

[Answer] According to the inter-American pacts, Panama is not supposed to allow these gentlemen to conduct any proselytzing, much less violate Panamanian territory to attack Nicaragua.

[Question] Mr President, you know that the world is very much interested in the situation in your country. In Colombia the university students want you to explain to them through Radio Cadena Nacional the situation in the universities of Nicaragua.

[Answer] Nicaragua, the university situation is as follows: Our university is one of the oldest in America. Everything is normal, including the matter of autonomy. The boys are conducting their activities in a normal fasion.

[Question] Mr President, have the university students become involved at all?

[Answer] In Nicaragua, everyone is involved in politics, and this includes the university students.

[Question] Mr President, do you think the CIA is involved at all in this conflict which has been going on for several days in your country?

[Answer] I do not think that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has participated, other than gathering information for its own use.

[Question] This past Friday, Nicaragua commemorated the 157th anniversary of the independence of Nicaragua. How was this day observed in Nicaragua?

[Answer] With the exception of the three cities I mentioned earlier, it was commemorated in a peaceful manner. All schools throughout Nicaragua commemorated the date.

[Question] Mr President, could you tell Colombians what progress has been made in the investigation into the murder of newsman Chamorro?

[Answer] Of course. About 2 or 3 days after Dr Chamorro was murdered, we arrested the material authors and one of the intellectual authors. We have also asked for the extradition of another person who some of the authors claim is another intellectual author.

[Question] Could you give us the name of the persons whose extradiction you have requested and from what country?

[Answer] Of course, Mr Pena has accused Dr Ramos, a Cuban who has become a nationalized [presumably U.S.] citizen who lives in the United States.

[Question] Is it easy for foreigners such as Cuban or American citizens to leave your country?

[Answer] In Nicaragua, nothing prevents a person from entering or leaving the country. There is total freedom of movement.

[Question] In the event your country's authorities capture the Sandinists, including Commander Eden Pastora, would you be willing to enforce capital punishment in order to stop these people?

[Answer] No, because if we capture them and enforce capital punishment, that would be unconstitutional. There is no capital punishment in Nicaragua.

[Question] Mr President, when will press censorship be lifted in your country, and when will the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA be published again?

[Answer] In about 27 or 28 days.

[Question] Are there any newsmen under arrest right now?

[Answer] Not to my knowledge.

[Question] An international news agency reported that your estate in Costa Rica has been occupied, as well as your international airport on your El Murcielago estate. What do you think about this?

[Answer] Well, I have no comments on that. I have not been informed of any such thing. I understand that the Costa Rican Government respects the rights of people, and could occupy the estate only in case of an emergency.

VARIETY OF ISSUES TOUCHED UPON IN SOMOZA INTERVIEW

LD172124Y Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1830 GMT 17 Sep 78 LD

[Interview with President Anastasio Somoza on 17 Sep; place not specified; name of interviewer not given--recorded]

[Text] [Somoza] The situation at present in Nicaragua is such that the whole of the country is calm with the exception of the cities of Chinandega and Esteli, where the armed forces of my country are neutralizing a group of snipers who are still in the city centers. That is the internal situation. The border post of Penas Blancas has been attacked from the Costa Rican side twice since 0400 this morning by forces which have used Costa Rican soil in order to attack Nicaraguan territory. We are fighting against the invaders there.

[Question and answer indistinct]

[Question] On his return to Caracas last night, the Venezuelan foreign minister stated that the Nicaraguan National Guard was being helped by mercenaries, especially by U.S. and Vietnamese mercenaries. What can you tell us of this?

[Somoza] Foreign Minister Consalvi from Venezuela is misinformed. We have no foreigners here wielding arms against the people of Nicaragua. We Nicaraguans know how to look after ourselves and we do not need the help of foreigners.

[Question] What can you tell us about the situation at this time in Leon, the birthplace of Ruben Dario?

[Somoza] Leon is my hometown. This morning I flew over Leon and I saw that the traffic--both cars and people--was normal.

[Question] In view of the border incidents with Costa Rica (?and which have been referred) to the OAS, do you believe that this pan-American body may intervene, or perhaps that the Central American Defense Council may intervene to solve the Nicaraguan conflict?

[Somoza] The Nicaraguan conflict is a question for the Nicaraguans themselves and no intervention of third parties is admissible. As for the conflict with Costa Rica, here third-party intervention is admissible because the conflict (?involves two states).

[Question] General Somoza. What can you tell us about the sending of planes and helicopters from Venezuela and Panama to the Costa Rican Government?

[Answer] We consider the Costa Rican request for arms a (?right) of the Costa Rican Government. However, it disturbs us that the governments of Panama and Venezuela should lend themselves to (?cause an imbalance of power) in Central America.

[Question] General Somoza. I would like to ask you if you know how many people have been killed so far in the internal struggle in Nicaragua?

[Answer] I cannot say, because we do not yet know the figures for the adversaries. However, we do know the figures for the government forces.

FOREIGN MINISTER NOTES PENAS BLANCAS ATTACK

PA181200Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0428 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Communique issued on 17 Sep by Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic--read by announcer]

[Text] The Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic informs the citizenry of the following:

With great concern the foreign minister of the Government of Nicaragua informs the Nicaraguan people and the international public that at 0400 today, 17 September 1978, military forces coming from Costa Rica treacherously attacked the border area in the place known as Penas Blancas.

This aggression constitutes a flagrant violation of the most elementary norms of international law [words indistinct] and also denounces it before the international public, which is constantly scandalized by systematic propaganda inspired by Marxist-Leninists which seeks to portray Nicaragua as an aggressor state, when in reality terrorists of various nationalities who are operating with the complicity of the Costa Rican Government have been staging underhanded aggression against Nicaragua with military attacks from Costa Rican territory.

The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua is also denouncing this new aggression to the Organization of American States, as is proper within the American system of which we are a part.

This very morning our diplomatic representative, Dr Juan B. Lacayo, who is accredited before the Costa Rican Government, presented a formal protest to the foreign minister of that government over the new military aggression which has already obtained the military support of the Government of Venezuela, with Venezuelan fighter planes having participated in this new attack upon our national sovereignty and the integrity of our territory.

[Signed] Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic

Pastora Comments on Attack

PA182215Y San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1341 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Interview with Eden Pastora, Commander Cero, by Eduardo Enrique Leiva in Costa Rica's northern border region--recorded; date not given]

[Text] [Pastora; apparently in progress] It is one more bit of evidence of what the Nicaraguan people are willing to do to obtain their freedom. Our appreciation goes to the people of Costa Rica for their cooperation in this struggle for the liberation of the people of Nicaragua.

[Question] What can you tell us about this operation which started at 0400?

[Answer] As you said, it started at 0400 and ended at 1200. It was a long, violent fight. We had 10 wounded and 2 dead. We provided a lesson to Somozaism and another sign to the world of what the people of Nicaragua are willing to do to obtain their freedom.

[Question] Commander Cero, it has been reported through Nicaraguan stations that the attack was launched from Costa Rica but we are witnesses to the fact that this is not so. We were watching the attack on the border region from the early morning hours. Tell us in your own words how it was.

[Answer] The mobilization of forces occurred in Punta Caballo and from there we marched on Penas Blancas. As you can see, the wounded are mostly from Rivas Department [words indistinct].

[Question] Commander, what else can we ask from you after an operation which has demanded a lot of work and, since the occupation of Penas Blancas has been a complete victory, has (?gained) you the admiration of many people?

[Answer] You can ask anything of me; I will do all I can.

[Question] Commander, what else can you tell Nicaraguan youth?

[Answer] Well, now we are going to rest. We want the Nicaraguan people to (?maintain) their spirit to fight for liberation. This has been a sign of solidarity for the peoples of the world.

MANAGUA RADIO SAYS SANDINISTS COMPLETELY DEFEATED

PA190224Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0055 GMT 19 Sep 78 PA

[Text] The members of the so-called Sandino-communist front and their national and international accomplices have suffered complete defeat in the last 48 hours. The Nicaraguan National Guard operations over the last 48 hours liquidated the subversive cells in Chinandega and Esteli, just as it had previously liquidated the cells in Leon and Diriamba. The National Guard demonstrated exceptional courage in the fulfillment of its duty and the defense of the fatherland on all fronts. Reports received from Choluteca today indicate that a group of 37 Sandino-communists surrendered with their arms to Honduran authorities and that they have been placed in custody at camps under Honduran Army guard until they are expelled from the country.

On the other hand, a total of 45 Sandinists entered Panama in the last 2 days. They were completely defeated and demoralized. Those who gave themselves up in Choluteca yesterday and those who took refuge in Panama were tired and demoralized, demonstrating evident signs of fatigue and demoralization.

In order to maintain appearances, the Sandinist leaders are saying that this is a strategic retreat but the truth of the matter is that, as the central political analysts are affirming, the front has been completely liquidated on the military field after being defeated by the overwhelming advance of the Nicaraguan National Guard, which has fought with high moral and great spirit, motivated by nationalist sentiments.

NATIONAL GUARD URGED NOT TO BECOME COMMUNIST ACCOMPLICES

PA182030Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1457 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Text] Although many think that the war of the Sandinist front is against the constitutional government of President Somoza, the communiques, the actions and the (?cynicism) characteristic of the Sandinist front members clearly specify that their war is against the system, against the institutions of Nicaragua, private enterprise, (?representative) institutions.

National Guardsmen: Do not be the useful fool who cooperates with those who will murder and disrupt your well-being which you achieved after so many years of sacrifice and hard work. The humble Nicaraguan, a hard working man, has much to lose--his freedom. Hold your position in the advance to defend the fatherland in the face of communist aggression.

LIBERAL PARTY APPEALS FOR SUPPORT FROM YOUTHS

PA181322Y Paris AFP in English 1243 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, Nicaragua, 18 Sep (AFP)--The Nicaraguan ruling Liberal Party was today making urgent appeals for young supporters, interpreted by observers as a call for backing for President Anastasio Somoza in his fight against Sandinist guerrillas. The appeal broadcast by Party Secretary Chester Escobar on national radio, as guardsmen patrolled all the strategic points of the capital here, called on youths aged 15 to 22 to come forward for a task of supreme importance.

RED CROSS REPORTS ON CASUALTIES IN LEON

PA182303Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2117 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Excerpt] The Red Cross in Leon, the second largest city in Nicaragua, has reported that it counted 300 dead and 3,000 wounded after the National Guard allowed it to enter Leon. The Red Cross also reported that some 7,000 refugees from Leon have shown up at its headquarters. In another report it was learned that a group of guerrillas who attacked Penas Blancas managed to cross the Costa Rican border from where they were flown to Panama. Upon their arrival in Panama they said that they will return to Nicaragua and promised to establish a provisional government in Penas Blancas, which they expect will win international recognition.

SOUTHERN BORDER REOPENED TO ALLOW RICE IMPORTS

PA182121Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1520 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Telephone report from Penas Blancas by unidentified speaker--presumably live]

[Excerpts] Here at Penas Blancas, in the border area, the Nicaraguan National Guard has just reopened the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua to allow two trucks loaded with rice to pass. Enrique Oviedo Abad, chief of medicine of the Agriculture Ministry, will now give us a report on the passage of the rice into Nicaraguan territory.

[Question] Don Enrique, where is this rice going?

[Answer] It stems from a transaction between the two governments. The total amount is 60,000 quintals and this is the first shipment. I believe they still have three more trips to make.

[Question] About the two trucks, one of them is Costa Rican. From what country is the other one?

[Answer] (?It is) Nicaraguan.

[Question] The car that was in front is a small car with a Nicaraguan license plate. Who was in it, an official?

[Answer] (?They are the ministry officials) in charge of transporting the rice.

[Reporter] In other words, 60,000 quintals of Costa Rican rice are now passing through the border, which has been opened exclusively for this purpose. The rice is headed toward Nicaraguan territory. The two huge trucks can still be seen at the customs office. They will proceed immediately to Nicaraguan territory [words indistinct].

BLUEFIELDS PLACED UNDER CURFEW BY NATIONAL GUARD

PA181705Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1649 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Communique issued by Bluefields National Guard commander Brig Gen Orlando Guerrero N., date, place not given--read by announcer]

[Text] According to the executive decree of 13 September 1978, in which constitutional guarantees are suspended, it is hereby reported to the citizens of Bluefields that it will go into effect in this city as of 2200 until 0500. [signed] Brig Gen Orlando Guerrero N., departmental commander of the National Guard.

PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASSES IN BLUEFIELDS TO BEGIN 25 SEP

PA182228Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1933 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Communique issued by Guillermo A. Arguello Perez, Zelaya Department southern zone public education department inspector--date not given]

[Text] We are hereby informing primary school principals, teachers and students of Bluefields, as well as parents, that on orders from higher authorities classes will reopen on Monday, 25 September, at the usual time. It is also announced that final examinations should be available then. [sentence as heard] Final averages should also be ready. It should be very clear that this measure applies only to the city of Bluefields. It does not apply to other communities or municipalities, which must continue their classes normally.

COMMERCIAL BOATS' OPERATING HOURS LIMITED

PA182307Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1850 GMT 18 Sep 78 PA

[Communique issued by Brig Gen Orlando Guerrero N., Bluefields National Guard departmental commander--read by announcer; date not given]

[Text] Pursuant to the executive communique dated 13 September 1978 suspending constitutional guarantees, captains of commercial boats and owners of the same are hereby informed that the circulation of boats is prohibited between 1800 and 0500, at which time boats may resume operations. This regulation will be in effect until stated otherwise. [Signed] Brig Gen Orlando Guerrero N., National Guard departmental commander.

CASTRO IN ETHIOPIA: MEETS WITH NKOMO, MUGABE

FL181523Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 18 Sep 78 FL

[Text] Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the councils of State and Ministers, has met in Ethiopia with Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, leaders of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front. Nkomo, president of the Zimbabwe African People's Union, and Mugabe, president of the Zimbabwe African National Union, are in Addis Ababa as guests at the celebrations of the fourth anniversary of the Ethiopian revolution.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the councils of State and Ministers, and Lionel Soto, member of the PCC Central Committee, participated in the meetings between Fidel, Nkomo and Mugabe. The two meetings took place in a fraternal atmosphere, and a fruitful exchange of viewpoints regarding the situation in southern Africa took place during each of the meetings.

Visits Harar, Jijiga

FL181514Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Sep 78 FL

[Text] Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, has visited the province of Harar accompanied by Ethiopian Chief of Government Mengistu Haile Mariam. Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and other Ethiopian officials accompanied Fidel and Mengistu on the tour.

Thousands of persons gave a warm welcome to the visitors during their stay in the city of Jijiga and in Harar, places where historic battles took place during the Somali aggression against Ethiopia.

Fidel and Mengistu watched a military exercise conducted by Ethiopian detachments in an area near Jijiga. Shortly thereafter, thousands of persons gathered in the city's main square to attend the opening of the festival in honor of the victory and reestablishment of all Ethiopia. The festival is part of commemorative activities of the fourth anniversary of the revolution. Fidel and his party then visited an exhibit of achievements of the Ethiopian economy.

Tours Airbase

FL151731Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Sep 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro today visited the Debre Zeit airbase in Shoa Province and installations for the rehabilitation of war casualties in that area. The Cuban delegation, accompanied by Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, was received at the airbase by Air Force Chief Col Fanta Belai and watched an exercise conducted by MIG-21 and MIG-23 supersonic fighter-bombers.

After touring installations at the airbase, Fidel met briefly with Cuban instructors who are performing internationalist missions in that nation and commended and encouraged them.

The residents of Debre Zeit and nearby areas gave a spontaneous welcome to the Cuban delegation on its tour of the airbase and at the Center of Heroes inaugurated by Fidel and Mengistu. The center, with hospital and medical service installations, is devoted to the rehabilitation and recovery of war casualties.

The Cuban delegation, other guests invited to the festivities of the fourth anniversary of the revolution and the entire Ethiopian Government last night participated in a banquet in honor of representatives of all the Ethiopian nationalities who are participating in the revolution's commemoration.

PCC MESSAGE TO PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS

FL1617402Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Sep 78 FL

[Announced text of PCC Central Committee Message to the Second Special Congress of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party--read by announcer]

[Text] We convey to you delegates to the Second Special Congress of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, as well as to all party members, associates and sympathizers, the fraternal and solidary greetings of our party and Cuban people. We have followed with great attention and interest the preparations for the congress and the long path undertaken to reach the congress. Undoubtedly it is a constructive event to create conditions and develop the strengthening of your party. We are convinced that the objectives of the congress, importance of the documents that you will aprove, the debates and scope of the resolutions will open a new page in the heroic struggles of your homeland.

The recent resolution approved by the UN Committee on Decolonization is a reliable example of the growing solidarity that is pushing the cause for Puerto Rico's independence. This resolution is, atove all, a victory of the pro-independence and anti-annexationist forces and a defeat of U.S. scheming and maneuvers.

As is known, in response to an invitation tendered by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party Central Committee, our party named a delegation to attend your congress. The delegation took the appropriate steps with the North American authorities who, nevertheless, did not grant the visas. With this decision, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party has been denied its right to receive a fraternal Cuban delegation at its congress. This absurd measure, however, will not preclude the solidarity message of the Cuban revolution from being heard, as always, at your congress, along with the reaffirmation of all our people that we have the moral and political duty to support the idea of independence for Puerto Rico as long as there is a single Puerto Rican defending the idea. We will fulfill this moral and political duty.

We wish you great successes in your congress.

[Signed] Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee

BRIEFS

NEW POST OFFICE--The country's most modern post office has been inaugurated in Placetas, Las Villas Province, at a ceremony presided over by Pedro Guelmes Gonzalez, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of communications. In remarks at the ceremony, Guelmes Gonzalez said the Communications Ministry wants the 700 post offices operating throughout the country to have the same facilities soon as the one in Placetas. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 18 Sep 78 FL]

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